

NEOPLASTIC DISEASE AT VARIOUS SITES: TUMOURS OF THE ŒSOPHAGUS. Volume IV. Edited by Norman C. Tanner, M.D., F.R.C.S., and D. W. Smithers, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R. (Pp. xi + 352; figs. 165. 63s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone.

THIS comprehensive monograph seeks to deal with all aspects of oesophageal neoplasia under six separate headings.

After a depressing survey of the mortality associated with this disease, sections two and three cover its epidemiology and pathology. The influence of other oesophageal conditions, such as hiatal hernia, upon the development of malignancy is considered very fully, and to the reviewer these sections are especially stimulating.

The section on diagnosis is exhaustive to the point of being tedious, while that on surgical treatment is adequate and mainly orthodox.

An interesting chapter, however, is that by Nakayama of Japan whose three-stage operation for upper oesophageal tumours offers the hope of longer survival. A course of irradiation is given after the first stage of the operation, and in the forty-eight cases treated in this way there has been no operative mortality.

Very full analyses of survival of patients treated surgically and by irradiation are given.

This is a valuable and beautifully produced monograph which should be read by all surgeons interested in this problem.

H. M. S.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE AND TOXICOLOGY. By John Glaister, J.P., D.Sc., M.D., F.R.S.E. Eleventh Edition. (Pp. xi + 720; figs. 225. 55s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.

THERE is no need to detail the contents of this new edition; all doctors will have seen one of the previous ten editions which have been published at regular intervals since 1902. The eleventh edition differs little from its predecessor. Revision has taken account of recent changes in the law, particularly of mental disorder and poisons. Some new matter has been added, but, by condensing and excising other parts of the text, the size of the volume remains the same. Unfortunately the price is increased by more than 15 per cent, and this will make it less appealing to students. One cannot help but feel that some of the photographs are unnecessary and, if the cost of publication could be reduced by their deletion from future editions, they should go.

T. M.

SCIENCE AND SURGERY. By R. B. Welbourn, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.S. (Pp. 28. 2s. 6d.) Belfast: The Queen's University of Belfast (obtainable from the Librarian).

THIS is No. 11 in the New Lecture Series published by Queen's University. The series includes some inaugural lectures and some other notable lectures delivered in the University. It defines the place of modern surgery, described as a synthesis of handwork, knowledge and judgement, in the scientific thought of today. A few carefully chosen examples illustrate how scientific thinking guides the practice of surgery. This scholarly and thoughtful address to a lay audience deserves the attention of all medical men who should value its clear presentation of the aim of surgical science.

J. E. M.

LIVER BIOPSY. By R. G. Shorter. (Pp. xi + 111; figs. 107. 60s.) Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1961.

THIS presents in brief and almost tabular form the histological and some aetiological features of liver disease. It includes an excellent series of photographs of histological preparations and extensive documentation of the modern literature. The technique of needle biopsy is briefly described, but most of the illustrations would suggest the review of more adequate material. This is a limited study of general liver disease and yet fails to offer much useful help with the diagnostic problem presented by the liver biopsy, especially the needle biopsy. The physician reading it may expect more from the pathologist than is reasonable or possible.

J. E. M.